

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Nation's Liquor Problem Serious

Public Concerned About Extent Of Drinking; Debate Over Control Measures

SEVERAL American soldiers, "crazed by drink," attack and beat to death half a dozen Japanese, and are held under charge of murder.

A New England college student, reported by police to be intoxicated, insists on smoking in a no-smoking railway car, scuffles with the conductor, who is killed, and the youth faces a murder charge.

A former world champion cyclist, cured of alcoholism, is trying to start over at the age of 60, after having squandered half a million dollars which he acquired as a racer.

The Washington, D. C., Traffic Bureau reports that, during 1946, 316 auto accidents, almost one a day, were caused by intoxicated persons.

These are items from one day's news. They may not seem to be very important. Of themselves, they prove little about drinking as a national problem. But they do not stand alone. They are typical of incidents which can be gleaned from the news any day of the year.

If we could look the nation over and could see all that is happening at any given time, we would witness multiplied thousands of unreported miseries traceable to the immoderate use of liquor. We could find ourselves looking in on innumerable personal and social tragedies such as these:

Business and professional men of ability and promise who, through heavy drinking, lose efficiency and sink

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LATIN AMERICA HAS many modern cities, but most of the people live in small, primitive villages

WESSEL PHOTO

Unrest Grows in Latin America

Land for Small Farmers, Higher Wages for City Workers, and Education for All Are Advocated as Steps Toward Justice and Economic Progress

THE publisher of *Forbes Magazine of Business*, B. C. Forbes, is well known to American industrialists as a conservative economist and a staunch supporter of capitalism. Hence, when he condemns the injustices inflicted upon the people of South America by governments and owners of industry, as he did in a recent editorial, and when he blames these injustices for the growth of communism, his criticisms command respectful attention. This is what he said:

"While I still am convinced that communism is absolutely the worst form of government for any people to live under, and while I never could understand why it should be favored by any nation, I must admit that my

recent visit to South America forced upon me a new slant on why large numbers living under hopeless conditions are becoming communistic.

"Throughout the greater part of the vast South American continent, there are only two classes: a relatively small wealthy class, and an appallingly large, pitifully poor class. Hardly any middle class. I can now clearly understand why communism is spreading in various Latin American countries.

"Individuals and families whose standards of living are shockingly low quite naturally feel that they have nothing to lose by championing communism, that they would stand to benefit economically under a social revolution.

"The only way to modify the menacing growth of communism in most Latin American countries is for the ruling classes, especially industrial and business owners, to recast their thinking and their practices. They must awaken to a realization that they must treat their workers more considerately, more equitably, must pay them enough to obtain more essentials of life, to say nothing of comforts.

"The food, clothing, homes, of vast millions of Latin-Americans are shockingly inadequate . . . It is so practically all over South America. Unless measures are instituted, not merely by governments, but, more important, by the industrial, commercial, land-owning classes, to improve conditions greatly, communism inevitably will multiply. Although Communists are not numerically large today, Communistic leaders are the only ones who are arrestingly holding out hope to the peon masses that their lot can be tremendously lightened, revolutionized."

Mr. Forbes' description of conditions in South America could be applied to the Central American countries as well. The Latin American nations, with a few exceptions, are selfishly and inefficiently governed and the masses of the people live in abject poverty.

It is an ironic fact that this poverty is to be found in lands of plenty. Latin America is endowed by nature with marvelous riches. It is a region of vast, undeveloped resources.

Philip Leonard Green in "Our Latin-American Neighbors" writes that Latin America "has more useful vegetable products than any other equal area on the globe. It was the original home of white and sweet potatoes, tomatoes, red pepper, cassava, maize, cacao, mate, cinchona, coca, sarsaparilla, and tobacco."

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Walter E. Myer

Wind Up for Another Pitch!

By Walter E. Myer

YEARS ago, when Walter Johnson was at the height of his pitching career, I had the good fortune to see him in action fairly often. As I remember it, not once in all these games did I see him dispute an umpire's decision. If the umpire yelled "ball" when the offering looked very much like a strike, the crowd might hiss and boo, but "The Big Train" quietly wound up for another pitch.

He must have been disappointed and annoyed at times, but he kept resentment to himself. He probably figured that in the long run he would get his share of the breaks, and that, anyway, a single decision didn't ordinarily amount to much in the course of a game and still less in the course of a season or a career.

Johnson looked at events, apparently, from the long-term point of view. If

a ruling had no long-range importance he didn't make an issue of it. The thought may have run through his mind, "This point will not seem important tomorrow or next month, so why make a fuss about it now?" He saw things in perspective. He was a poised individual.

Most pitchers lack that quality of poise. Now and then, when a doubtful point is decided against them, they act as though their whole careers were at stake. On such occasions they fume and shout, shake their fists at the official, sometimes become so menacing that they are put out of the game.

Too many of us, I am afraid, act similarly in the face of everyday disappointments and irritations. We worry, and sometimes quarrel, about matters which may look big at the moment, but which are really so unimportant that they will soon fade entirely from our memories.

If a person is to have peace of mind and a fair share of happiness he must

develop the art of poise. We must learn to size up our problems so that we may know which ones are important and lasting and which are trivial and temporary. If real trouble overtakes us, as it sometimes does in every life, we must do what we can to remove the causes. We must give it our full attention until it can be completely overcome.

But most of our worries, anxieties, and resentments are about problems which are small and temporary. Your quarrels or disappointments of last year—can you not laugh at them, or most of them, today? Your difficulties of today, what will they look like a year from now?

If you are inclined to raise a great hullabaloo every time you fail to have your way, remember Walter Johnson. If, figuratively speaking, you think you have thrown a strike and it is called a ball, just settle down on the mound and wind up for another pitch!

Liquor Problem

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into mediocrity or failure. Such human wreckage can be found in all communities.

Workers, formerly competent, who have held good positions, with satisfactory wages, but who have acquired the drink habit, have lost their jobs or have been demoted, and who have brought their families to poverty and despair.

Families which spend so much for liquor that there isn't enough left for adequate food, clothing, education and housing.

Homes breaking up through divorce, leaving children neglected, with the result that many drift into juvenile delinquency.

Business firms whose output is declining because so many employees, after week-ends of drinking, are absent on Mondays, or whose efficiency is lowered by over-indulgence in liquor. This is a national economic problem; one with which industrial leaders are seriously concerned.

It would, of course, be foolish to say that liquor is responsible for all or most of our crimes, accidents, and broken homes. Drinking is not to blame for the majority of cases of inefficiency, shiftlessness, poverty, and unhappiness. It would be equally untrue to assert that all users of intoxicants suffer serious or dire consequences.

It can be said without exaggeration, however, that drinking contributes enormously to personal failure, to family misfortune and to national weakness. It is estimated that from 600,000 to 750,000 Americans are alcoholics—chronic drunkards who are



COACH WALLY BUTTS, whose University of Georgia football team was among the best in the country, is one of 30 outstanding coaches who say that alcohol and athletics do not mix.

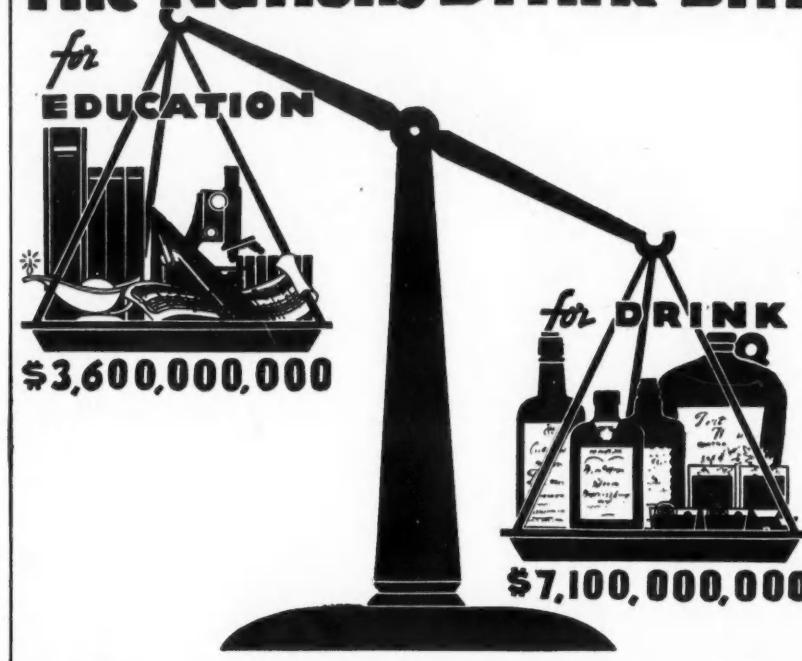
under the influence of liquor much of the time and who are so affected physically or mentally that they cannot hold steady jobs.

Every such case is a tragedy, and when account is taken of the fact that the alcoholic's family usually suffers the consequences of his drinking, the number of liquor victims is seen to be distressingly large.

In addition to the recognized alcoholics there are in the United States from four to seven million heavy drinkers, men and women who indulge in drink to excess and whose efficiency and health have been impaired. In such cases the liquor bill frequently plays havoc with the family budget.

Heavy drinking is a personal and family problem and it is also a matter

The Nation's Drink Bill



THE NATION spent twice as much for alcohol in 1944 as for education

of national concern. The productive power of the nation falls when several million workers are of sub-standard quality.

Approximately 40 million people are classed as "social drinkers." They drink occasionally, some of them fairly regularly, but not excessively. Many such persons see few (if any) ill-effects from their indulgence. Whether light drinkers suffer permanently in health is a disputed question, but the temporary effects of even light drinking are, in certain respects, injurious.

Tests show that, after moderate drinking, one's physical reactions are slower, muscular strength diminishes, and muscles coordinate less effectively. After either light or heavy drinking, one is less able to do exacting work.

Since, after drinking, a person's physical reactions are sluggish and his muscles do not coordinate well, he loses skill in driving a car. The drinker, however, is not aware of this handicap. He feels stimulated and exhilarated, is in a mood to take chances. Hence a man who has been drinking is a menace on the streets and highways.

Life, in a recent article on the extent and consequences of drinking in the United States, calls alcohol "a large factor in motor accidents for pedestrians as well as drivers." This article states that during the war years, national summaries of fatal accidents showed that about 20 per cent of adult pedestrians killed were under the influence of alcohol to some extent, and that about 12 per cent of the drivers involved had also been drinking, though in most cases they had drunk only moderately.

A pamphlet entitled "The Scientific Approach to the Problem of Chronic Alcoholism," published by the Research Council on Problems of Alcohol, calls attention to another dangerous feature of light drinking. "Of the 50 million persons in the United States who use alcoholic beverages," it says, "six per cent become excessive drinkers, and of the excessive drinkers, about 25 per cent become chronic alcoholics." No one, therefore, can venture upon a career of moderate drinking, and be sure that he will not be among those seriously affected.

The liquor bill of the United States

is very heavy—about eight billion dollars a year, or \$55 for each person in the country. Since only about a third of the people drink, the cost of liquor for the drinker averages more than \$150 a year.

The effect of this expense on the budget of many families is serious. When so much is spent for liquor, the purchase of many of the necessities of good living are curtailed. How serious the expense is from the national standpoint may be seen by the fact that twice as much is spent each year for liquor in the United States as for education.

Concern about the liquor problem is not confined to the Women's Christian Temperance Union and other anti-liquor organizations; not to churches, and so-called "reformers." It is commanding the attention of businessmen, physicians, educators, civic groups; in fact, of all thoughtful Americans.

What to do about it is another matter. When remedies are discussed,

opinions differ sharply and heatedly. Some people would like to try national prohibition again. Prohibition of the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors was written into the Constitution shortly after the First World War, and at that time the experiment failed. The national laws were not enforced and liquor was sold illegally. Advocates of national prohibition argue that the federal laws should be re-enacted and enforced. This movement has not, however, gained headway.

Before the national outlawing of the liquor traffic was attempted, a majority of the states had laws forbidding the manufacture or sale of intoxicants. In some of these states, the laws were reasonably well enforced, and the effort is still made in certain states.

In some quarters the control of liquor advertising is advocated. Many people who oppose either national or state prohibition laws say that liquor manufacturers should not be permitted to appeal for customers through attractive advertisements in newspapers and magazines.

An argument frequently heard is that the moving picture industry should be prevailed upon to eliminate drinking scenes from the movies. These scenes unquestionably glamorize drinking or make it seem funny, thus encouraging the use of intoxicants. The movies probably do more to increase drinking than the clever advertisements of the large liquor companies. Letters of protest to movie producers might have good results.

Regardless of the legal restraints which may be imposed upon the liquor traffic, much can be accomplished through a nationwide campaign against drinking. Furthermore, each individual can further the cause of temperance by taking care of the problem so far as he is concerned.

In many schools students are undertaking to discourage drinking. An organization with this objective, called Allied Youth, has clubs in high schools and colleges, and it publishes a monthly magazine under the same name. The address of the organization is 1709 M Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

NOW FOR A SMILE

The years that a woman subtracts from her age are not lost. They are added to the ages of other women.

* * *

Maryland and Virginia are having an oyster war, and few oysters are being taken from the Potomac during the dispute. In this conflict, it seems, there is actually less shelling than in time of peace.

* * *

Runner: "Did you take my time on that last mile?"

Coach: "Nope, didn't have to; you took it yourself."

* * *

Secretary: "Do you know what time I have to get up to be here by nine o'clock?"

Office Manager: "No, I don't. Why don't you get here by nine one morning and find out for yourself?"

* * *

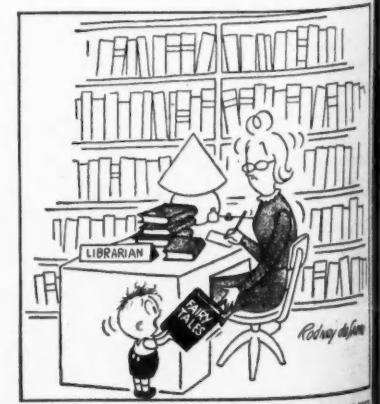
Month after month a firm sent its bill to a customer, and finally received this reply:

"Dear Sir: Once a month I put all my bills on the table, pick at random and pay five. If I receive any more reminders from you, you won't get a place in next month's shuffle."

* * *

Father: "Who was that you were talking to for an hour at the gate?"

Daughter: "That was Jane Smith. She didn't have time to come in."



"Didn't the characters seem a little smoky to you?"

Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion



RAILROAD MEN, seeing a decline in their business since the war, are planning improvements in rail service

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

"Here's Your Speech, Senator," by Jack H. Pollack, This Week.

Words are a statesman's stock in trade. Day after day and year after year, he gives the public a steady stream of articles, speeches, and comments. It looks like quite a job. Or is it? It would be, except for the ghost writers behind the scenes.

Almost every lawmaker and government official in Washington relies on one or more of the unknown word jugglers for at least part of his public pronouncements.

It was no secret that the late President Roosevelt's speeches were drafted by Judge Samuel Rosenman in cooperation with several other presidential ghosts. Roosevelt, of course, put his own touches on the finished products,



HOST WRITERS prepare speeches and statements for many men in public life

but the basic work was theirs. Today President Truman looks to writer Clark Clifford and a crew of other aids to help on his speeches.

Ghost writing is nothing new in Washington. Although Abraham Lincoln never sought help on his speeches and writings, such eminent historical figures as George Washington used ghostly aid freely. Senator Vandenburg, a biographer of Alexander Hamilton, says that Washington wrote only four lines of his celebrated farewell address. Hamilton did the rest.

"A Railroad Man Thinks Out Loud," by Roger E. Tornell, Harper's.

Wartime was a golden age for the nation's railroads. After years of financial troubles, they found themselves deluged with business and fat profits.

But it's all over now. The railroads are up against real competition again.

The airplane can carry passengers faster; the bus can offer lower rates. Unless the railroads take action, they may lose a great deal of their passenger traffic.

Fortunately, however, there is much that railroads can do to make their service more attractive. The first step is to junk the many overage "rolling tenements" which are still in use. Old, worn-out cars should be replaced with streamlined, air-conditioned coaches and up-to-date Pullmans.

Dining cars and rest rooms should be improved. There should be better accommodations for baggage. Finally, the railroads should do something about their dreary stations. Too many present-day railroad stations look like relics of the horse-and-buggy age. They are dirty, ill-lit, and always either too warm or too cold.

Many railroad men shrink from large-scale improvements at this time, but modernization now means business in the future; without it, the railroads will always be in the red.

"Why We Don't Understand Russia," by Edgar Snow, Saturday Evening Post.

How much do you know about Russia? Probably not as much as you think you do. A recent survey made by Princeton University showed that two out of three Americans don't know that Russians can own their own homes, furniture, cars, and so on, and that farmers till individual plots. Four out of five don't know that most Russians are not members of the Communist Party. Seven out of nine think the United States sent Russia most of the war materials used by the Red Army.

Our ignorance about the Russians causes a great deal of trouble. Because we don't understand their ideas and ways of doing things, we misinterpret them again and again. In a very profound sense, we do not speak the same language.

It is not enough to say that this is as much Russia's fault as ours. To be sure, Soviet censorship hides many things it might be profitable for us to know. But many important facts about Russia are available for the asking and it is up to us to acquaint ourselves with them.

Marxism and Soviet thought are not passing notions. They are living forces in the world of today. "Marxism" is a language we must learn sooner or later if we are to chart a sensible course in international affairs. Unless we do, we cannot find

a real basis for agreement with the Russians—indeed, we cannot even be sure what our important differences with them really are.

"Powel Crosley Jr." by Gerard Piel, Life.

Some people identify Powel Crosley Jr. as a manufacturer of kitchen equipment and tabletop radios. Others know him as the owner of super-power radio station WLW. To baseball fans, he is noteworthy as proprietor of the National League's Cincinnati Reds.

Crosley himself wants the public to link his name with automobiles—the inexpensive little Crosley cars he has been manufacturing since 1939. Crosley has pushed his other projects into the background in order to concentrate on promoting his midget car as the transportation of the future.

The Crosley is not as handsome as its bigger automotive brothers, but it has a good many features which its manufacturer thinks should attract the average American family. It is low-priced. The cheapest new full-sized car costs at least \$1,300 today; the Crosley sells for \$849. It is inexpensive to run. The little four-cylinder engine of a Crosley needs only one gallon of gas to run 50 miles.

"What I Learned About America," by Andre Maurois, Redbook.

The first thing that impresses a European about the United States is its unity. Every town looks a great deal like every other town. The people speak the same language, read



WILL THE NEXT FEW YEARS see more of these small automobiles on the road? This two-door Crosley sedan costs about \$850 at the factory, and goes 50 miles on a gallon of gasoline.

the same magazines, listen to the same radio programs. From New York to Seattle, their customs are similar.

With this unity comes equality. The United States is a land where there is very little special privilege. But America's unity also means excessive standardization. In a restaurant, the waiter is irritated if you ask for something that is not on the menu. A salesman in a clothing store looks blank if the customer wants some variation of the regular styles. The tendency to stick to a standard can be seen everywhere in America.

Yet America is not, as many Europeans believe, a materialistic nation where science and the pursuit of the dollar are the only considerations. There is, for example, a vivid appreciation of education and culture all over the United States. Nowhere in the world can one find such fine libraries, such beautiful art museums, or such excellent symphony orchestras. Public understanding of painting and music has increased to an incredible extent in the last 25 years. The great thing about America is that she combines cultural success with leadership in the field of production.

"The Coming Revolution in Adult Education," by Mark Starr, The Saturday Review of Literature.

Once upon a time, adult education was concerned chiefly with removing illiteracy and preparing immigrants for citizenship. It can no longer afford to stop there—it can and should be our biggest weapon against the political and social ignorance which breed so many of the troubles of the modern world.

Adult education should try to do three things: (1) To give us a better understanding of the way our local, state, and Federal governments work; (2) to help us chart a wise course in international affairs; and (3) to remove differences between industrial workers and their employers.

Not enough Americans realize how much adult education can accomplish. It can give color and zest to life and it can pay dividends as an investment in community welfare. More adult education classes and groups all over the country would help us to face the problems of our age—to crush totalitarianism and keep liberty holding her torch on high.

The Story of the Week

NOTICE TO TEACHERS

The monthly current events test will appear next week in the issue of March 10. It will be based on the preceding four issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, dated February 10, 17, and 24, and March 3. The test will not cover the issue in which it appears.

The answer key will be published in *The Civic Leader* for March 10.

More About Bikini

Has the world even now been fully informed about the deadly effects of the atomic bomb? Dr. Stafford Warren, who took part in the experiments at Bikini, feels that the underwater atomic explosion there showed some terrifying possibilities which few people yet understand. It is by exploding under water, says Warren, that the atom bomb achieves its greatest horror.

He explains that, at Bikini, tremendous quantities of radioactive material became "mixed with the sea water, mist, and spray which rose from the lagoon." When such atomic mist "moves in over a city you have to evacuate the people right away or they will die. . . . You couldn't clean up the area. The fissionable material would get into the water—into everything. It would get into next year's crop."

Warren declares that if two atomic bombs were dropped in the water near



SAND SAILING has captured the fancy of vacationists in Florida

the Statue of Liberty, the deadly mist from their explosions "could turn the whole of Manhattan into a ghost town for 50 to 100 years."

Battle Royal in Congress

Hot debates have been taking place in Congress over military expenses. In the government's present bookkeeping year, the nation is spending 16 billion dollars on its armed forces (this does not include 2½ billions for terminal leave pay).

President Truman thinks this military outlay can be reduced to 12½ billion dollars for the bookkeeping year



SOLDIERS CAN GRAB their rifles and go into action more quickly when they use these new foxhole beds than they could with the old laundry-bag arrangements

which begins next July 1. Both he and top military leaders contend that if less than this amount is spent, many occupation troops will have to be brought home from abroad, our country will be endangered, and our position in world affairs will be weakened.

Quite a few members of Congress, on the other hand, believe that military expenses can be scaled down to 10½ or 11 billion dollars. They argue that the armed forces can economize to that extent and still provide necessary protection for the nation.

With Secretary of State Marshall and high military officials fighting forcefully against cutting Army and Navy funds below the President's figure, many political reporters predict that these expenses will be cut very little, if any. They think, however, that the economizers will take their defeat "out of the hides" of other government departments which cannot bring such strong pressure to bear. Many agencies will be eliminated altogether, and others will be forced to get along on much less money and cut down greatly on their activities.

Devil's Island

By next year Devil's Island and other notorious French prison colonies off French Guiana will be transformed into flourishing outposts of the French Republic. According to plans now well under way, the islands will be inhabited by free citizens who may engage in gold mining, forestry, spice production, and other occupations based on the resources of these areas.

In answer to protests from organizations throughout the world, the French government long promised that it would someday abolish its island prisons—noted for their corruption, brutality, and privation. But it was still sending its political prisoners and hardened criminals to the prison colonies until the beginning of the war, when a definite decision was made to cease using these islands as prisons.

Two years ago a mission was sent to start the work of changing conditions in the colonies. Of 2,000 prisoners in the islands then, 900 have been pardoned. Another 300 are awaiting their liberation orders from the Ministry of Justice. The other 500 are

either incorrigible criminals or relatively recent offenders, and they will finish their sentences in one modern central penitentiary on the Island of Laurent.

Advice to Big Four

Members of the Big Four have decided to let Belgian and Dutch representatives take part in some of the meetings at the coming Moscow conference on peace terms for Germany and Austria. The opportunity to be heard there is of great importance to Belgium and the Netherlands, because they will be drastically affected by whatever happens to Germany.

Before the war these two countries carried on a heavy volume of trade with Germany, and they feel that, in order to be prosperous, they must do so again. Much of the goods that passed through their great ports of Antwerp and Rotterdam, in pre-war years, was moving either to or from Germany. These port cities badly need this German trade.

Dutch and Belgian representatives expect to recommend measures which they believe would promote commerce between Germany and their own countries, and would cause much German



COOKED IN 45 SECONDS. Radar was used to cook this tasty bit of steak, which Jean Barnet of Columbus, Ohio, samples. Scientists say the nutritional value of foods is preserved when they are cooked quickly by radar.

trade to pass through Antwerp and Rotterdam.

At the same time, these small countries urge that steps be taken to prevent the Germans from rebuilding a great military machine which can attack and ruin them. They believe that Germany should be divided into a number of states, and that little authority should be given to her central government. They favor keeping armies of occupation in Germany for many years.

Climbing Mount McKinley

Scientists are preparing to challenge Alaska's lofty Mount McKinley again. Ten men and one woman will soon start toward the 20,304-foot peak, bent on gathering new information about cosmic rays and other scientific problems.

Mount McKinley, highest mountain in North America, has been ascended five times before, although only one previous expedition ever reached the top. No one has tried to climb it since 1932, when two men met death in its giant crevasses.

"Expedition White Tower," as the new venture is to be called, will be supplied by Army planes. The Army Air Forces' Tenth Rescue Squadron based at Anchorage, Alaska, will parachute a complete cosmic ray and weather research station to an advance base 10,000 feet up Mount McKinley. Among other items to be tested for the Army will be frozen fresh foods, such as chicken, strawberries, and salmon.

Poll on Conscription

Congress has yet to make up its mind on peacetime military training, but the rank-and-file of Americans seem to have a very definite point of view about the question. According to a recent Gallup poll, 72 per cent of the people are in favor of peacetime military training.

This number includes all sections of the public—old and young, men and women, Democrats and Republicans. Only 23 per cent of those queried oppose the idea. Five per cent have no opinions on the subject.

The Gallup poll shows a large major-

ity of people in every region of the country to be in favor of training all youth for military service. There is stronger support for the plan in the West, however, than there is in the East and the South.

Sports by Television

Sports announcer Bob Wolff says that television saves his nerves and vocal cords from a lot of wear and tear. He explains that anyone describing a game for an ordinary radio audience must keep up with every play.

Members of the television audience, on the other hand, can see the game for themselves. All they expect of the announcer is an occasional comment such as a fan might make to his com-



LEWIS SPENCER, graduate student at Northwestern University, hasn't let the loss of his right arm handicap him. He types 100 words per minute on an electric typewriter, is an outstanding student, and excels in swimming, softball, and volleyball.

panion in the grandstand, and frequent announcement of the score.

Much of the television commentator's time can be spent in giving interesting facts about the players. When action in the game becomes particularly exciting, the ordinary radio announcer must talk more rapidly than ever. The television commentator, at such a time, does not have to say anything at all.

Oil and Ibn Saud

American-owned oil wells in Saudi Arabia mean big money for King Ibn Saud. The Arabian monarch permits two U. S. firms to develop some 440,000 acres of oil-rich land in the northeast corner of his country. In return, he gets 22 cents a barrel for all the oil produced. On the average, his share adds up to the staggering sum of \$44,000 a day.

The oil companies have invested over 200 million dollars in the once-barren desert they rent from Ibn Saud. Their efforts have turned this territory into a modern industrial center which is today the biggest single producer of oil for the United States Navy.

Palestine Problem

Violence flared again in Palestine this week as the British Government prepared to toss the entire problem in the lap of the United Nations General Assembly. Oil lines were cut and buildings bombed in a new reign of terror.

Secretary of State Marshall has requested the British to inform the United States of the details of their plan to submit the Palestine question

to the UN. The British have indicated that they will not bring up the problem before the Security Council because they do not believe Palestine is a threat to world peace. It is expected that the General Assembly will receive the British case by September.

Meanwhile, the Arab League has hinted that the Palestine Arabs may "jump the gun" on the British and propose an independent Palestine to the United Nations. Since the Arabs are in a majority in that land, they would control the government of an independent Palestine.

End of Filibuster?

The Senate may now be ready to do something about the filibuster—that endless debate which allows a few senators to block a bill approved by a majority. No less than six senators, four Republicans and two Democrats, have introduced legislation to prevent members of the upper house from "talking bills to death."

The measure sponsored by Senator Leverett Saltonstall, Republican of Massachusetts, goes further than any other in restricting debate when a filibuster is threatened. It provides that a majority of the Senate can limit debate to one hour per speaker. Republican Wayne Morse of Oregon and Democrat Glen Taylor of Idaho follow the same general pattern in their bills, but they would allow each senator three hours' speaking time.

Export-Import Bank

Among foreign peoples, the Export-Import Bank is one of the best known agencies of our government. It is from this bank that they get loans which enable them to buy the American products they so urgently need.

When the Bank was first set up in 1934, most of its work was designed to build up our foreign trade. Today it is still active in this field—promoting trade with Latin America is one of its most important duties, for example—but it is best known for the part it plays in the rebuilding of war-shattered countries.

Foreign nations now have more than 1½ billion dollars in American money borrowed through the Export-Import Bank. With it, they are buying American food, tools, and raw materials to help them get back on their feet economically. At present, the Export-Import Bank is the world's



WINTER SPLENDOR at the Nation's Capitol

HARRIS & EWING

greatest source of financial aid to foreign countries. Eventually, the United Nations World Bank is expected to take over some of its work.

Help for the Future

Knowing the troubles experienced by people who seek to learn about ancient civilizations, some American scientists have made an effort to help those who, a few thousand years from now, may try to learn about us. In a sealed vault at Oglethorpe University, in Georgia, they have placed a large number of books, pictures, motion picture films, mechanical models, and samples to describe present-day life.

In the vault is a device which, it is hoped, will give discoverers a clue to the understanding of modern languages, if they are not then known. In order that future scientists may find the vault, durable "treasure maps" showing its location have been distributed throughout the world.

Film on Early California

The gay, garish West Coast of 100 years ago has been transplanted to the screen in a new technicolor movie, *California*. The film shows the fight for gold which filled California with fortune-hungry prospectors. It shows also the political struggle which agi-

tated the area on the eve of the Civil War.

Friends of the North were trying to bring California into the Union as a new state. Southern forces fought hard to keep her out, fearing that a new non-slavery state would give the North too large a share of power. The new motion picture vividly portrays this clash of interests.

Ray Milland heads the cast of *California*, playing the role of a wagon train guide. Heroine Barbara Stanwyck appears as a pioneer girl and Barry Fitzgerald is an old farmer who plants the first grapevines in what has since become one of the chief vineyards of the nation.

Too Many Potatoes

In the midst of world food shortages, the United States government finds itself with a great surplus of potatoes. The crop last year was tremendous. Our government bought about 80 million dollars' worth of them in order to give financial help to potato raisers, who otherwise would have suffered from low prices. If the government were to put some of the potatoes back on the market now, the price would drop sharply.

It seems tragic that this surplus is not being used to feed starving people overseas, but relief agencies and foreign governments say they cannot afford the high cost of refrigerating, drying, and shipping them. Such agencies and governments would rather ship grain, such as wheat, which in its natural form, does not spoil so easily.

Many of the surplus potatoes have been given free of charge to American schools and hospitals. Now a large part of the government's 20 million bushels, some of which are already spoiling, is being spread on fields and plowed under for fertilizer.



THE STRUGGLE between North and South over admitting California to the Union is told in the movie named for that state

PARAMOUNT PICTURES



EWING GALLOWAY

THOUSANDS OF VILLAGES similar to this one are found in the countries of Latin America. The towns are picturesque, but living conditions there are very poor.

Latin America

(Concluded from page 1)

parilla, cascara, tobacco, cotton and rubber, to mention only a few. It has been estimated by some observers that if only one million square miles of Brazil were under cultivation, that region could easily feed the world."

South America produces more than tropical and semitropical products. Below the hot weather zones—in southern Brazil, in Uruguay, in temperate Argentina and Chile—the wealth of agricultural production is boundless. There are broad plains from which come huge quantities of wheat and beef. Great herds of sheep in the cooler and more mountainous areas provide meat and wool in abundance.

Mineral Wealth

In addition, Latin America is immensely rich in mineral resources. The Caribbean region is situated in one of the great oil-producing basins of the world. From South America comes tin, copper, gold, silver, nitrates, and other minerals of crucial importance in war and of much value in peace.

Why is this region so rich and yet so poor? Many explanations are advanced and some of them are well supported. The tropical climate which prevails in a large part of Latin America saps the energy of man and makes him disinclined to work as hard and as steadily as in more temperate zones. Many of the richest areas are covered by a dense jungle which could be cleared away only with difficulty.

Many areas which escape the jungle

growth are mountainous so that travel and transportation are impeded. Lack of good transportation facilities has probably been the most serious handicap to the development of Latin America and particularly the northern two-thirds of the South American continent. It is largely for this reason that most South Americans live along and near the coasts. The interior is, to a great extent, wild, undeveloped, and in many places unexplored.

Few Industries

Industrial development has been held back partly because Latin America, with all its wealth, lacks large and well-located supplies of the two minerals most necessary to industry—coal and iron. There are unusual facilities, however, for water power, and the abundant supplies of oil might serve as a substitute for coal if it were used by the countries of that region instead of being sold to nations all over the world.

Allowance must be made for all the natural obstacles to industrial progress and prosperity in Latin America. But the chief handicap is man-made. It is a product of selfishness, greed, and inefficiency on the part of the ruling classes.

Conditions are not the same in all the Latin American countries, but in most of them, most of the time, the real rulers consist of large landholders, business leaders, military adventurers, and politicians who work with these groups. The governments are democratic in form but, with a few exceptions, the nations are ruled by strong leaders, kept in power by wealthy interests and military cliques.

There is little hope that the com-

mon people will receive much consideration until they gain control of their governments. It will be very hard for them to do this so long as they live in poverty and ignorance.

The land ownership system stands in the way of progress. Much of the land is divided into great estates. Ranches of 10,000 to 20,000 acres are not unusual. The work on these ranches is done by renters or poorly paid laborers whose conditions are little better than serfdom.

A program by which the renters or workers might buy small farms on long-term payment plans would raise living standards and would produce a strong, competent middle class. Increased wages for city workers would have the same result.

Another needed reform is an improvement of education. The education of the poorer classes has been shamefully neglected in many of the Latin-American countries. In some places it is practically non-existent. This situation fits in very well with the plans of the ruling element, for so long as the masses are ignorant, they can easily be kept in subjection.

Improvements Needed

The improvement of educational and economic standards in the farming areas and the cities would benefit all classes of the population. People now in poverty would have increased purchasing power. They could buy more goods. Manufacturers could sell a greater quantity of products. They could expand their plants, could tap the vast natural resources of their continent.

With such a program in effect, governments would be forced to give

more attention to the welfare of their people and to the possibilities of industrial development. The Latin American countries might rise, then, from centuries of poverty and get on the road to progress.

Will the present ruling classes have the wisdom to adopt the needed program of reform? If not, will the people undertake to improve their lot by forceful means? If they do this, is it probable that they can achieve their objectives? These are questions which only time and the disposition of the Latin American people can answer.

Progress Ahead?

Meanwhile, certain hopeful movements are under way in South America. Chile has made a beginning toward the breaking up of the great estates. Democratic Chilean governments have done quite a little for the schools, have tackled the housing problem, and have in many ways improved economic and social conditions.

Argentina is bending her energies toward the development of industries and the raising of living standards. This work is being done by a government which appears to be fascist in nature, however, and it is not certain that such a government can be depended upon to help the people materially.

Uruguay, smallest South American republic, is also the most democratic, and has enacted quite a little progressive legislation.

The scattered reforms thus far adopted merely scratch the surface of needed change in Latin America, but they tend to brighten somewhat an otherwise gloomy outlook.

Readers Say—

Two readers recently said that, if this is a free country, communism should have the right to grow. I don't think they understand what democracy and freedom of speech mean. The United States wouldn't be a democracy if it were run the way a communist country is run. Democracy will not mean much if we allow our government to be overthrown on the grounds that we are allowing freedom of speech.

EILEEN FITZGERALD,
Silver Spring, Maryland.

* * *

The President's proposed budget allows approximately one-fourth of the total expenditures for military expenses. All leading authorities, however, agree that the world is headed for doom if the UN does not succeed in outlawing war. I think that our setting aside so large an amount for military purposes shows a lack of faith in the UN. It would be better to spend this money for more worthy causes—as for instance, public health.

ROBERT GOODRICH,
Anoka, Minnesota.

* * *

Advocates of compulsory military training say it will keep the nation prepared in case of attack. But preparedness was not the issue at Pearl Harbor. We had many ships there, we had many men under arms, and we outnumbered the Japanese in the air. Pearl Harbor was the fault of negligent leaders.

In my opinion our future safety does not depend on compulsory training. The Army should be able to get a large fighting force on a voluntary basis.

CHARLES HARGRAVE,
Colorado Springs, Colorado.

* * *

We can all see how well our veterans are making use of the free college education provided for them. If that privilege were bestowed on all our youth, future generations would have the wisdom to avoid many present problems, and to pave the way for a better world.

STELLA JANE MISKALIS,
McKeesport, Pennsylvania.

* * *

I think we were justified in using the atomic bomb. If we had not used it we would have lost many more of our young men in battle. Japan would have had to surrender at some time, but when? She was prepared to disregard cost in trying to prevent her own collapse.

JEANETTA MILLS,
Shoshone, Idaho.

* * *

I believe, as do many of my classmates, that teachers are entitled to raises in salary. As professional workers, they must be equipped with an extensive education. Yet, despite this training, they receive less pay than many unskilled laborers.

We, as the students of today and as voters of tomorrow, need well-trained competent teachers. To the adults of today we say this: Keep skilled teachers in the schools and encourage more to enter the field by raising salaries.

BARBARA MEYTHALER,
New Glarus, Wisconsin.

YOUR VOCABULARY

In each of the sentences below, match the italicized word with the word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 4, for the correct answers.

1. The United Nations meeting ended in a spirit of *amity* (äm-ti-ti). (a) friendship (b) distrust (c) discord (d) equality.

2. Mexico needs *agrarian* (uh-grair-i-an) reforms. (a) industrial (b) radical (c) immediate (d) agricultural.

3. We cannot break laws with *impunity* (im-pew-ni-ti). (a) contempt (b) freedom from punishment (c) carelessness (d) approval of others.



Civil War Splits Manchuria

Industrial Life of Chinese Nation Suffers as Long as Her Great Northern Province Is Torn by Strife

MANCHURIA is both the hope of China and the biggest danger spot on her sprawling map. Here are the natural resources and industrial plants which can make China a prosperous, modern nation. Here too are the whirlpools of political conflict which can drag the country to ruin.

Manchuria is a land of promise for China partly because of its rich soil. This 400,000-square mile territory just south of Siberia in northeastern Asia is a giant bread basket. Its central plain, watered by the Amur river, is one of the world's most productive farming areas. The rich, black earth yields large harvests of wheat, rice, barley, soy beans, and other important food crops. China, plagued by frequent famines, counts heavily on Manchuria to help feed the people of other regions.

Manchuria is equally important for her mineral wealth. Out of the Manchurian mountains come substantial quantities of gold, iron, coal, tin, tungsten, silver, asbestos, magnesium, and limestone. Manchuria produces more iron than all the rest of China put together. Her coal output of some 15 million tons a year amounts to almost half the national total.

Besides these resources, Manchuria boasts a rich supply of timber. Since most of the rest of China is almost treeless, Manchuria's forests are particularly important. Without them, the Chinese people would have to look

abroad for their supplies of paper and other wood products.

But the most significant thing about Manchuria is her industry. Even before the war, the Chinese had built up such cities as Changchun, Kirin, Anshan, and Mukden as manufacturing centers. When the Japanese took over and transformed Manchuria into the puppet state of Manchukuo, they lost no time in expanding the region's industry. Under their supervision, for example, Manchurian steel production rose to 450,000 tons a year, as compared with the annual 50,000-ton output of the rest of China.

Today these riches belong to China once again, but she cannot use them to full advantage because of the political conflicts raging in Manchuria. The battle between China's Communists and Nationalists is at its fiercest here.

Manchuria's 37 million people have always represented a jumble of mixed—and frequently quarrelsome—nationalities. Besides the native Manchus and Chinese, there are Korean colonists, Russians, and wild Mongol tribesmen. These people have been fighting among themselves for centuries. Now they are split into two great camps—those who support the Communist forces versus those who back Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists.

Southern Manchuria is controlled by General Tu Yu Ming, a strong military leader in the service of Chiang's government. The northern regions are under the authority of General Lin Paio, able young Communist leader. As the forces under these two men battle each other, the people of Manchuria carry on their daily lives under exceedingly difficult conditions.

Industry is severely handicapped by the fighting. Even where mines and factories are producing, it is hard to move finished goods to the markets. Farm production, too, is held back by the conflict. No improvements in education, health, or living conditions in general can be attempted until peace returns.

Meanwhile, the typical Manchurian peasant lives as he has for centuries. His home is a small mud hut which shelters livestock as well as his family. He wears a bulky, quilted cotton robe and a ragged fur cap with dangling ear flaps. When he travels, a mule hauls his sledge or wagon over the bumpy dirt roads.

Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

THE magazine *Time*, in the February 17 issue, reports a Senate committee investigation of David Lilienthal, appointed by the President to be chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, and charged by Senator McKellar with having communistic leanings.

Time quotes a statement in which Lilienthal declares that he does not believe in communism, then adds this comment: "Americans could applaud Lilienthal's statement. It had the ring of truth. But the problem was not simple."

The magazine goes on to say that, in addition to confessed Communists, many "fellow travelers," "confused liberals," "totalitarian liberals," "left wing New Dealers" support programs which lead to despotism and which are incompatible with democracy.

This looks like an insinuation that Lilienthal is associated with groups which *Time* considers undemocratic and communistically inclined. Either the magazine intended for its readers to gain the impression that he is traveling the road to "despotism" or it didn't. If it did, the charge should have been openly stated and backed by evidence. If not, why was the "fellow traveler" issue included in a discussion of Lilienthal's fitness for office?

After having quoted Lilienthal's denial of communistic leanings, *Time* in the same column, says, "A man may be a Communist or a 'totalitarian liberal,' and call himself a good American—but he cannot expect his fellow Americans to agree."

If this means Lilienthal, which a reader of the *Time* article could easily infer, it is important to note that a poll of American newspaper opinion, conducted by the *Washington Post*, shows 75 to 80 per cent of the press supporting Lilienthal's confirmation. Large groups of atomic scientists publicly back him. So does Secretary of War Patterson.

Apparently, these "fellow Americans" consider Lilienthal a "good American." A number of people, however, feel that he favors too much governmental activity in our industrial life. They say so openly and present arguments to support their opinions. Senator Taft of Ohio and other well-known leaders oppose him.

With respect to the controversy over Lilienthal, this column expresses no opinion. Our concern is about the all too common practice of "name calling" and of associating individuals with unpopular causes by insinuation and without supporting evidence.

I do the very best I know how; the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what is said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference.

—Abraham Lincoln.



Careers for Tomorrow - - *Fashion Designer*

THE field of fashion designing has broadened in recent years. For a long time Paris was the style capital of the world, and the top creators of fashion lived and worked in France. Then New York began to compete with Paris, and fashion designing moved westward, although Paris still retained a commanding position in the field.

More recently California has entered the picture, and now the West Coast is sending out fashions to compete with those of Paris and New York. All this means a larger opportunity, especially in the United States, for the artist who wants to turn his talent to planning fashions.

Since fashion designing is concerned mainly with women's clothes, the field appeals more to women than to men. Many of the leading designers, however, are men; and the boy with creative talent and imagination can look forward to the possibility of success.

Unfortunately there is little factual information about earnings, employment, and other practical matters in this line of work. It is possible, though, to tell something about the talents and skills needed.

In the first place, there is no one way to become a fashion designer. A large number of successful designers have entered the field by working first in department stores. There, as clerks or buyers, they gained firsthand information about styles, fabrics, colors, and women's likes. Others have started out as dressmakers.

Almost all fashion designers have, at one time or another, seriously studied the techniques required in design-

ing—drawing, anatomy, abstract design, color values, and other aspects of art. They have also studied the history of design and costuming, and they have learned the basic points about materials and textiles.

A little of this information may be offered in high school courses, but generally a young artist will find it helpful to go to a commercial art school. Here he will learn not only the fundamentals of fashion designing, but he will also get courses in advertising and related fields. Most art schools allow a stu-



NYC BOARD OF EDUCATION
MILADY'S FASHIONS are often designed first on a miniature scale

dent to progress as rapidly as his ability will permit. A young woman or man who cannot afford a commercial art course may become an apprentice in a studio, where he can earn while he learns.

The would-be designer must, of course, have artistic ability. If he is

to succeed, though, it is not enough that he be able to copy the designs of others. He must have an original and imaginative mind.

Beyond this, a career in designing, like one in any other field, depends upon hard work. The designer must be thoroughly grounded in the subjects noted above. Then he must be willing to work at a creation until it is satisfactory in every detail—to himself and to the public.

A student planning to enter this field should not be misled by the glowing reports of the handful of designers who create the leading styles. For each designer who plans original costumes for the women of wealth, there are hundreds of designers who plan the clothes which the rest of us wear.

A beginner in costume designing may earn as little as \$25 a week. Later on, after he has gained experience he may earn up to \$100 a week; and of course the top creators of fashion have very high incomes.

Fashion designing, like many other occupations in art, often grows out of a hobby. If you draw in your spare time, and are constantly sketching new designs, this may be the field for you.

Pronunciations

Caribbean	kär'ī bē'ān
Manchukuo	man chew kwō
Manchuria	man choor'i ah (oo as in look)
Changchun	chahng choon (oo as in look)
Kirin	kē rīn
Guiana	gē ah'nah (g as in get)
Mukden	mook den' (oo as in food)
Lin Pao	lin bōw

Historical Backgrounds - - *by David S. Muzzey*

IN the late summer of 1784, a small American sailing ship named the *Empress of China* dropped anchor in the crowded harbor of Canton on the southern coast of China. It was the first vessel ever to raise the American flag in Chinese waters. The 13-gun salute which it fired marked the beginning of a long period of American-Chinese trade and friendship.

During the years which followed this memorable voyage, hundreds of other American ships made the 13,000-mile journey from Boston or New York around Cape Horn and across the Pacific Ocean to the coast of China. They carried furs, cotton, and tobacco to be exchanged for Chinese products such as tea, silk, and beautiful dishes known as "Chinaware."

Through such trade the American people became interested in this strange land across the Pacific. Missionaries were sent to China, and hundreds of Chinese students came to the United States to study in our schools. At the end of the 19th century, when the United States obtained possession of the Philippines and other islands in the Pacific Ocean, our people learned still more about the Far East.

The government of China at that time was not strong. Its weakness was revealed in the war with Japan in 1894-95 when China was defeated. Powerful European countries took advantage of this weakness and forced China to grant them large "spheres of influence" within her borders. The foreign governments controlled these

areas almost as though they were colonies. There was danger that the Chinese Empire might be broken up completely if this practice continued indefinitely.

The American Secretary of State, John Hay, did not want to see this happen. He wanted China to be independent and open to trade with all nations on equal terms. So in 1900 he persuaded the European countries to agree to a policy of greater freedom of trade in their spheres of influence. This "Open Door Policy" has been the cornerstone of American policy toward China ever since.

At the time John Hay put forth his plan, some of the younger Chinese "radicals" felt that it did not go far



FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
CHINA'S recent history is a story of almost continuous civil strife

enough. They wanted to drive all the foreigners out of China. These young Chinese belonged to a secret society, widely known as the "Righteous Harmony Band." In translating this name into English a mistake was made, and the society was called the "Righteous Harmonious Fist," and later the term "Boxers" was applied to the group. The "Boxers" attacked foreign settlements in 1900 and were stopped only by troops from the United States and from other foreign countries.

The United States still holds to the Open Door Policy. Our government wants China to be an independent nation, strong enough to look after her own affairs, to prevent other countries from invading and dominating her. When Japan made war on China and sought to gain control over the Chinese, the United States opposed Japanese aggression. After we were brought into World War II, we were firmly allied with China.

Since Japan's defeat, we have continued to work for Chinese unity and independence. For that purpose General Marshall was sent to China in an effort to bring the Chiang Kai-shek forces and the Communists together and to end the civil war.

This effort did not succeed. The civil war goes on, and the future of China is in doubt. Meanwhile, American policy is unchanged. This country will continue to support measures looking toward the freedom and independence of the Chinese.

Study Guide

The Liquor Problem

1. Describe a number of personal and family tragedies that can be traced to drinking.
2. Why do high school and college coaches forbid drinking by members of their teams?
3. Why can even light drinking be a serious matter?
4. How much was the nation's liquor bill in 1944? How did this compare with the amount spent for education?
5. What ill effects does widespread drinking have on business and industry?

Discussion

1. "Whether or not I drink is my own business and no one else should be concerned about it." Is this statement true or false? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What could or should be done about drinking scenes in the movies? Explain your answer.
3. What do you think is the best solution of this whole problem?

Latin America

1. Why, according to B. C. Forbes, is communism gaining ground in South America?
2. Describe the natural riches of Latin America.
3. List some of the difficulties in the way of industrial progress in the Latin American countries.
4. What kinds of government are in power in most of these countries?
5. How does the system of land ownership stand in the way of progress?
6. What signs of progress may be seen in South America?

Discussion

1. If you lived in South America, what measures do you think you would support to promote social and economic progress?
2. If you were a wealthy business man in a Latin American country and were looking out for your own interests, would you favor drastic action to improve the living standards of the masses of the people? Why or why not?

Miscellaneous

1. What decision has France reached in connection with her notorious penal colony, Devil's Island?
2. What are the main duties of the Export-Import bank?
3. Briefly describe the controversy in Congress over military expenses.
4. How many miles can the Crosley car travel on a gallon of gasoline?
5. How important is Manchuria to the rest of China?
6. What arrangement do American oil companies have with Ibn Saud to make use of Arabia's petroleum resources?
7. Why has Mount McKinley recently come into the news?

Outside Reading

Liquor Problem

"Who Drinks, Why and How," by Edith Efron, *New York Times Magazine*, April 14, 1946; and "The Sick Person We Call an Alcoholic," by S. J. Woolf, *New York Times Magazine*, April 21, 1946. Types of drinkers, and methods by which alcoholics can be helped.

"I'm an Alcoholic Who Quit Drinking," by A. A. Anonymous, *Rotarian*, September 1946. The work of Alcoholics Anonymous, an organization which has done a great deal to cure heavy drinkers.

Latin America

"What Price El Dorado?" by Roland Sharp, *Inter-American*, April 1946. Difficult problems presented by South America's geography.

"Democracy's Chance in Latin America," by Michael Scully, *Reader's Digest*, January 1947. Latin American political movements.

Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (a) friendship; 2. (d) agricultural; 3. (b) freedom from punishment; 4. (c) secretly; 5. (b) self-satisfied; 6. (c) uncertain in meaning; 7. (a) mentally deranged.